(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the officials and the reasons for such rejection;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the AJTs are not meeting our qualitative requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Various options for acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer are still under examination by the Indian Air Force.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Hovercraft to the Army for Patrolling Lake in Ladakh

1078. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the army has been requesting for a hovercraft to patrol the lake in Ladakh for countering Chinese presence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government are going to provide them with the hovercraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Test Firing of Anti-Tank Missile Nag

1079. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Nag" anti-tank missile was test fired on September 2, 2001, from Balasore test range;

(b) if so, the success achieved therein; and

(c) the salient features of the missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Anti-tank missile 'Nag' was test fired on 2nd September 2001 from ITR, Balasore.

(b) This missile was launched from a tube in programmed control mode. It achieved all the mission objectives of qualifying the control sensor package, electro-mechanical actuator and smokeless extruded double base (EDB) sustainer propellant.

(c) 'Nag' is a third generation, anti-tank missile having 'top attack' and 'fire & forget' capabilities for Army on two platforms *i.e.* Nag Missile Carrier (NAMICA) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). 'Nag' has a range of 4 km.

Full-Fledged Air base on the Nicobar Islands

1080. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a full-fledged air base on the Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) by when the IAF is likely to begin fighter operations from Nicobar Islands Territories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A full fledged Air Force base already exists at Car Nicobar.

(c) Fighter operations are being carried out, as and when required.